

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00929 050759Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 050615Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4471
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY SANA

S E C R E T MUSCAT 0929

EXDIS
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, YE, YS
SUBJECT: BRITISH IMPRESSIONS OF EVENTS IN PDRY

1. BRITISH AMBASSADOR TREADWELL SHARED WITH CHARGE JULY 4
LATEST REPORTS RECEIVED FROM BRITISH EMBASSY ADEN ABOUT SITU-
ATION IN PDRY. WHILE WE ASSUME THESE ARE FULLY KNOWN TO AMEMBASSY
LONDON AND DEPARTMENT, WE PASS ON THESE ASSESSMENTS FOR WHATEVER
USE THEY MAY HAVE TO ADDRESSEES:

(A) CHARACTER OF NEW PDRY GOVERNMENT: THE EXTREME LEFTIST
COMMITMENT OF NEW ADEN REGIME IS CONFIRMED BY MEMBERSHIP OF
PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL ANNOUNCED JULY 1. ALI ABDUL RAZAQ BADHEEB,
MINISTER OF CULTURE, IS ONE OF ADEN'S ORIGINAL COMMUNISTS.
ALI AHMAD NASSER ANTAR, MINISTER OF DEFENSE, HAS LIMITED
PERSONAL CAPACITY AND IS FIRMLY WITHIN THE CONTROL OF ABDUL
FATTAH ISMAIL. MOHAMMED SALEH MUTIE, WHO REMAINS FOREIGN
MINISTER, IS A SCHEMER WHO WILL NO DOUBT FOLLOW THE LEFTIST
LINE IN HIS OWN INTEREST. ALI NASSER MOHAMMAD, STILL PRIME
MINISTER AND NOW HEAD OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL, IS A FIGURE-
HEAD. THE STRONGMAN ON THE COUNCIL IS UNQUESTIONABLY ISMAIL,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF UNFPO, WHOSE COMMITMENT TO THE SOVIETS
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IS CLEAR.

(B) MOOD IN ADEN: PDRY FOREIGN MINISTER MUTIE TOLD BRITISH,
FRENCH, AND ITALIAN AMBASSADORS IN ADEN THAT PDRY FEARS AN
INVASION FROM YAR, SUPPORTED BY SAUDIS. MUTIE URGED HMG TO
ADVISE SANA AUTHORITIES TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT. BRITISH AMBASSADOR
REPLIED HE WOULD CONVEY MESSAGE AND ALSO COUNSELED RESTRAINT

ON PDRY SIDE. MUTIE SAID NEW PDRY GOVERNMENT HAD TRIED TO CONTACT SANA MORE THAN ONCE BUT HAD BEEN REBUFFED. PDRY WOULD ALSO LIKE TO TALK TO SAUDIS, MUTIE ADDED. OPINION OF BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN ADEN, WHO STATES THAT HIS ITALIAN COLLEAGUE SHARES THIS VIEW, IS THAT THE PDRY FEAR OF INVASION IS GENUINE.

2. CHARGE GAVE AMBASSADOR TREADWELL VERBAL OUTLINE OF TWINAM'S IMPRESSIONS OF MOOD IN SANA, AS REPORTED PARA 1 OF STATE 167879 (JIDDA 4834), NOTING ESPECIALLY YARG WORRY BENEATH IMPRESSIVELY BRAVE FRONT. TREADWELL AND CHARGE AGREED THAT TWINAM'S REPORT AND THAT OF BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN ADEN CONVEY PICTURE OF TWO GOVERNMENTS CONVINCED THE OTHER WILL PULL THE TRIGGER FIRST. IN ADDITION, TRIBAL HOSTILITIES COULD SPARK A CONFLICT AT ANY MOMENT.
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